Programme (DDP) on watershed basis in accordance with the Guidelines for Watershed Development with effect from 1.4.1995.

The number of projects and area sanctioned under IWDP, DPAP & DDP from 1.4.1995 to 2002-03 and during 2003-04 (till 10-12-2003) are given as under:—

(Area in lakh ha.)

Year	IWDP		DPAP		DDP	
	No. of projects	Area Sanctioned	No. of projects	Area Sanctioned	No. of projects	Area Sanctioned
1995-96 to 2003-03	472	40.59	16268	81.34	8314	31.57
2003-04	107	5.59	2535	12.67	1551	7.75

(c) No State-wise allocation of funds is made under these Programmes. However, allocation of funds is made, programme-wise. During the current financial year i.e. 2003-2004 an amount of Rs. 295.00 crores under DPAP, Rs. 265.00 crores under DDP and Rs. 335.00 crores under IWDP have been allocated for implementation of the projects under these programmes.

(d) The States including Gujarat are likely to be benefited by the in-situ soil and moisture conservation measures under these programmes, which result in improvement in the availability of surface and ground water. The projects under these programmes also help in improving productivity of the degraded lands/wastelands and generated additional bio-mass, especially fuel-wood and fodder, creating more employment in rural areas in a sustainable manner.

National River Linking Project

1532. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going ahead with the National River Linking Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project has been agreed to by the concerned Union Ministries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether an exclusive consensus has been arrived at with the State Governments; and

(f) the expenditure incurred on the project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Paln for water resources development in 1980 which envisaged inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was constituted in 1982 under Societies Registration Act, 1860 to carry out the water balance studies and prepare feasibility report of the schemes of National Perspective Plan (NPP). NWDA has identified 30 links under NPP for preparation of feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 8 link projects.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Environment & Forests listed out some environmental concerns which need to be taken into consideration in the project formulation exercise. These concerns relate to submergence of forests and cultivated areas, rehabilitation & resettlement, siltation, bio-diversity loss etc.

(e) The Union Government has set-up a Task Force on December 13, 2002 with a view to bring about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., for implementing the interlinking of rivers. The Chairman of the Task Force has already met the Chief Ministers of MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam & Goa for building consensus among the States on inter linking of Rivers.

(f) The total expenditure incurred by Task Force on inter linking of rivers up to the end of October 2003 is Rs. 1.12 crore.